



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

GENERAL

What is Resource Family Approval?

Resource Family Approval – also known as RFA – is a method of approving care providers to foster, adopt and/or provide legal guardianship for related or unrelated children and youth in the care of the county child welfare system and/or probation department. Mandated by California State Statute, RFA creates a platform for all Resource Families to receive the same information, training and opportunity for support.

What is a Resource Family?

The term Resource Family, incorporates terms such as foster parent, relative caregiver, adoptive family, guardianship family and relative/non-relative extended family member. Rather than going through multiple processes such as foster care licensing, relative approval and/or an adoption assessment, a Resource Family goes through one process and once approved, may provide care for a related or unrelated court dependent or ward on a short term or long term basis.

APPROVAL PROCESS

What is the process to become a Resource Family?

A social worker or probation officer will assist with the process and answer questions along the way. A partial list of requirements include:

- Completing an application
- Background checks for all adults, including the applicants, residing in the home
- Attend and complete pre-approval training
- Home environment assessment
- Permanency assessment
- First aid and CPR certification
- Health screening
- Face-to- face interviews
- Providing references
- Providing requested verifications

Please contact your county for a complete list of requirements.

BENEFITS

What do Resource Families receive with RFA?

In addition to the benefits of providing a loving home and committed relationship to a child or youth, Resource Families receive:

- Monthly financial assistance
- Agency sponsored resources
- Monthly home visits from the child's, youth's, or young adult's social worker
- Ongoing trainings and classes

APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS

How many children can Resource Families have in their home?

The assessment will determine what capacity of children you may be approved to provide care to. You can have a maximum of six children, youth or young adults in your home, regardless of their dependency status. This includes children already in your care. Additional limitations may apply if providing care for children with high medical needs. Some exceptions to the capacity restriction may be made to keep sibling groups together.

What documents are required for proof of identity?

Counties have the discretion to determine what is an acceptable proof of identity. Please contact your county for more information.

Please note: All RFA applicants are subject to a background checks assessment which includes a fingerprint based criminal records check and child abuse index check. The Department of Justice is responsible for these checks and they have their own policies regarding proof of identity.